

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
April 17, 2014

The meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation was called to order by Chairman Williams, Thursday, March 20, 2014, at 3:45 p.m. Thatcher Park, 4649 W. Vermont Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.

Board Members Present: Chairman, John Williams, Mr. Joe Wynns,
Dr. Jacqueline Greenwood and Anne Valentine

Staff Present: Louvenia Holstein, Board Secretary
Suzanne Martin, Assistant Board Secretary
Doug Kowalski, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Board Members Absent: Mr. Josh Bowling

Approval of Minutes: February 27, 2014

Directors Announcements:

Chairman Williams greeted the Board and the audience and he thanked everyone for being there today and welcomed them to the Thatcher Park Family Center. Chairman Williams stated that he chose to host the Board meeting at Thatcher Park to try to allow the Board to go out into the community a little bit more so that those who are watching on TV can see some of the locations that Indy Parks has as far as park facilities are concerned and showcase a little of what has transpired here not that long ago in January when the Citizens Energy Group, through their Sharing the Dream Day of Service Project which is a project that they have taken on to showcase and honor the great work that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did during his life and really to honor his life and his legacy in regards to making the community better. As you can see the facility has been transformed into a really nice facility and we appreciate all the hard work that goes into all of our days of service but he wanted to specifically thank Citizens Energy Group for their work that they have done here and thank a number of their employees for doing this work for us.

Also, in keeping in that vein as far as partnerships are concerned, on April 26, 2014 there will be a ribbon cutting for the Tameka Catchings basketball court which is outside here at Thatcher Park and that ribbon cutting is really the beginning, if you will, of a partnership with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation, Indianapolis Power and Light, the Pacers Foundation and Indy Parks to commit 1.1 million dollars of resources to rehabing a number of our hardcourt basketball courts throughout our system. Again, this is another opportunity for our partners to come along side us and help us do some great things at Indy Parks. We also received a number of grants. He would like to highlight a grant that we received from Walmart through the National Recreation of Parks Association and working with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation we were able to secure a \$30,000 grant that is going towards making sure that there are healthy meals for children here in the City of Indianapolis. It also seeks to provide evidence-based education for those individuals who (especially young

people) who really need taught a little more about the importance of healthy eating and healthy living and living a healthy lifestyle. In the conjunction with the \$30,000 grant we also Received \$10,000 worth of what they call educational kits that will be used to help with this eeucational process. We also received a \$1,200.00 stipe-in to send a staff member to training to help facilitate developing our program a little bit further so overall this is in keeping what Indy Parks has really strived to do as part of their Mission and as well as standing beside the Mayor. Mayor Ballard has, since Director Williams has been with Indy Parks, has championed the cause to make sure that everyone has healthy meals, especially children so this helps us continue on with that process as well.

Finally, his last announcement is that Indy Parks as you know that we are fast approaching our summer season so we are looking for lifeguards. If you have individuals in your immediate family who are good swimmers and want to be lifeguards we would like to welcome them to come on board and work with us this summer. We also have over 300 positions in total, not just lifeguards, but also pool attendants, cashiers and positions of this nature. If you have again, young people in your family who need a job tell them to look up Indy Parks and we will make sure that we put them to work this summer.

Board members you should have before you the minutes and the minutes were distributed so we will take a vote here on them.

A motion was duly made by Ms. Valentine, seconded by Mr. Wynns, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of February 27, 2014.

New Business

1. Agenda Item Resolution #5, 2014 – The Resource Development Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of Indianapolis, is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis approve Agenda Item Resolution #5, 2014 which adopts the Indianapolis Greenways “Full Circle” Master Plan 2014-2024.

Andre Denman thanked the Board secretary and the Board stating that he is basically here for the Board’s approval of this resolution the daughting manifesto as the call it which was presented to the Board last month and if the Board likes they may ask any questions. Andre stated that they know it was an impressive effort and he has Ron Taylor here from the firm Taylor Seifker and Williams and also Scott Seifker is here who did a lot of work on this and Andre also would like to give thanks to Dave Foster who is also an associates with their firm and Ben Jackson who is our senior planner, Julee Jacob, Don Colvin and many people in house that have worked on this and a couple of people who have since left the City, Kristal Reider who is now working for the State of Indiana. Just kudos to everyone. They actually presented it yesterday to the MDC and this will be going before the MDC hopefully with this Board’s approval and a lot of those members of the MDC were very excited as this Board was when they heard the earlier presentation.

Andre opened it up for questions if the Board has any or any comments. Mr. Wynns stated that he has a small comment. Mr. Wynns stated that he mentioned the last time about the safety issues are in the discussions. Other than that he has no questions.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Ms. Valentine, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item Resolution #5, 2014.

2. Agenda Item Resolution #6, 2014 – The Department of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, requests the Board of Parks and Recreation adopt Agenda Item Resolution #6 which authorizes the acquisition of real property located at 1) 50 South Kitley Avenue; Parcel Number 7001560 and 2) South Edmondson Avenue, Parcel Number 7001560 from the Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana. These properties have been identified by the staff of DPR as being necessary for park trail purposes.

Paul Smith thanked the Board secretary and Director Williams and the Park Board members and stated that what he has brought before them today is another one of a series of properties that have been offered to us by the county. Over the years Indy Parks staff has been able educate the county personnel about various parks that we have and the trails that we have and have made them cognizant of the fact that we are always looking for pieces of properties that are strategic that would help us in any of our Indy Park activities. These two pieces here neither one of them would fit our general parameters for new parks. They are too small but they help us because they are adjacent to the Pennsy Trail which is being developed right now and when we get those opportunities we try to take advantage of them plus we get these for not even a sales price, we get these for an administrative cost of \$500.00 a piece. It is a good price, the properties are strategic and we are happy to bring those on. We want to acknowledge the county for helping us out in our search for properties and would ask the Board to accept these two parcels and he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

Chairman Williams stated that he appreciates the work that Paul Smith does in bringing these opportunities about for us. This gives the department the opportunity in the long term, even if it is just to put a bench out there, plant a garden, or what have you, having that property along the Monon is very important to him and he appreciates that. Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

A motion was duly made by Dr. Greenwood, seconded by Ms. Valentine, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item Resolution #6, 2014.

3. Agenda Item #7, 2014 – The Department of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, requests the Board of Parks and Recreation adopt Agenda Item #7, 2014 which authorizes the purchase of the triangular shaped property located at 10450 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, from Edward Rose of Indiana, L.L. C., which DPR plans to include within Grassy Creek Regional Park.

Mr. Smith stated that this is a piece of property probably, 7 or 8 years ago, maybe Don Colvin, Don replied he wasn't sure, maybe when he still had hair, at the time Paul worked for Don and Don assigned him the task of bringing this property into the department. He stated that he never said he was fast. It took them a long time to get their attention and it took them a long time to figure out how they wanted to work this purchase, in fact they had to enlist the aid of the Associated Right of Way Company which is a contractor that we use from time to time. We used them for work along the Pennsy to help us acquire real estate. Allen

McFearn has worked on them for over a year. If you notice on the overhead screen, this is particularly strategic because we have German Church Park to the south at 30th and German Church and the piece on the top we received from Café the piece on the top there and he thinks the piece on the top is about 113 acres and the German Church Park is 41 acres and when you add the 16 acres for this piece in the middle you have 170 acre park which helps us make this the Grassy Creek Regional Park which adds to our Regional Park inventory. We are really happy to have this piece because it not only adds acreage to the regional park but it also gives us a legal way to be able to go from one park to the other. He can tell you that we are still getting there from one to the other but every time they walked on that piece in the middle, they were trespassing. He doesn't believe that anyone ever got arrested but they were and so one of the things that we try to do is legitimize or sanction things that need to happen. In this particular case we needed to have that piece to make this work and we are working right now on a trail portion to go through there and as he said it is going to make for a pretty nifty regional park. Paul stated to Don Colvin that he know it has been long enough out there that he might have a comment or two to add to this. Don stated that he believes Paul has covered most of it and stated that it is really a very critical piece to this Grassy Creek Regional Park and in particularly the headwaters of the Grassy Creek Trail which will continue further down south to the Pennsy Trail, so this is a critical piece. You don't have to worry too much about the maintenance part of it. It is going to remain in a natural state and they will put a little ribbon trail through it to connect with the northern portions but there is not going to be a mode piece of property that requires a lot of operational resources to maintain it. It is great habitat. There is some great birding because of the wetlands and hopefully with working through stewardship and some of their environmental initiatives we will continue to further naturalize that whole area on the eastside of Indianapolis.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Colvin and stated that he wanted to just note for the record that we are paying \$13,900 for this 16.3 acre piece of property that works out to \$854.00 per acre which is certainly reasonable. He would ask that the board approve the acquisition of this piece of property and he would once again be happy to answer any questions the Board may have at this time. Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Mr. Wynns stated that just from the financial piece. Is this money coming from the CUM fund? Mr. Colvin answered yes. That is the only means of acquiring land which is through the Capital Improvement Program. Dr. Greenwood stated that she thinks it is a positive step.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #7, 2014.

4. Agenda Item #8, 2014 – The Resource Development Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of Indianapolis, is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, approve the installation of native landscape planting beds in Broad Ripple Park running alongside the westside of the Monon Trail east of Cornell Avenue from 65th to 67th Streets and, consider naming these planting beds the “Bill Brink Memorial Garden”.

Don Colvin stated that they have two things here before the Board today and one is the community initiative which the community has gotten behind this creative idea and would like

to make a dedication to a resident that had dedicated his life to many positive causes within the community and his love for Broad Ripple Park and his dedication to the natural communities, to the birding population and so forth. They are asking permission from the Board for this group to establish a native planting bed from 65th Street to 67th Street on the west side of the Monon Trail in Broad Ripple and part II of this request is to seek the Board's approval to name this planting bed for as long as it is maintained by the community, as the Bill Brink Memorial Garden. There are 2 pieces to this request. As far as the naming, the department would follow their naming policy procedures and they are introducing the name today and seeking approval to advertise that for 30 days in the paper and then come back at the following Board meeting, depending upon comments from the community, seek approval for that naming.

Today he has Mark DeMeek with us, a community member who has been a leader in this effort and he will let Mark speak more to the the building of this garden etc.

Mr. DeMeek thanked Don and stated that he and others have worked diligently within the community and they have a number of native plant leaders in central Indiana that are working with them and they have teamed up with INPOS which is the Indiana Native Plant Organization, which organization was actually co-founded by Bill Brink, and Bill was a lifetime resident of Broad Ripple and championed the aspect of knowledge of native plants, the reintroduction of those, creating the IMPOS group. He also was active in the Parks Department and the birding awareness and environment and photographer, the list goes on regarding people who have had any thing to do with native plants, they know who Bill Brink is and has done for the community. Unfortunately he passed a couple of years ago and they are doing this as an effort to educate and inform and kind of advance what he had already originally put out. They have partnered as he had said with IMPOS and they have raised around \$30,000 at this time and they are continuing to raise money. One of their key elements is that they realize that maintenance is a very important issue for this to continue on. They have also teamed up with KIB and they are providing them with 120 native plants and shrubs that will be reintroduced into the northern part of the trail which is the shady area and moves back into more of the wooded lands. They also will be putting down around 30 tons of mulch around the area where the beds have already been marked and in the Fall they will actually put trees and plants in. They are looking at around 3,000 perennials native plants that will be installed and they will follow up on working on the final maintenance plan but they are looking at around \$10,000 a year that they perceive through volunteers and professional assistance to maintain the garden.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Mr. Winns stated that he had just one quick question about the maintenance of it. Will there be an endowment established to maintain this? Mr. DeMeek replied yes. Mr. Wynns asked if the endowment will be in place before they start the planting. Or will they try to grow the endowment while they are planting? Mr. DeMeek replied that it will be a combination of both. The \$30,000 that has been raised presently, they are earmarking \$20,000 to be put aside for maintenance for the future and they are working in conjunction with the Blind School to actually propagate plants to buy more and to install more and with KIB's grant of the trees and shrubs that cost has been absorbed by their program. They are going to continue on an annual basis raising funds and they are setting aside \$20,000 for at least a 2 year plan at this time.

Chairman Williams reaffirmed that \$30,000 is what they already have at this time which was part of a CICF matching grant.

Dr. Greenwood stated that her question was similar to Mr. Wynns and that she has witnessed a lot of this projects that have been started and then people leave and they areas are neglected and she certainly hope that they will be able to maintain the garden because if it isn't, it becomes a concern of the Parks Department for maintenance. She believes it to become something beautiful. Mr. DeMeek stated that this is the one thing that they are really working on and teaming up with IMPOS and applying for a grant from them for a long term commitment in dollars as well as volunteers. IMPOS is very interested because they see this as an educational oportunity to inform people about native plants and how native plants can be a part of their landscaping. Basically, other than the weeding, and the maintenance and the annual sort of things, these are low water maintenance and do not require irrigation.

Chairman Williams stated that native plants do not take a lot of maintenance what sort of maintenance do you anticipate? Mr. DeMeek stated that in the last part the brochure he handed out it breaks this procedure out into years and watering in the fall and that is why they are starting in the fall is the best time. Throughout the year they will water both trees and plants on a bi-monthly routine or as needed. There will be mulching that also will have to be done with a certain amount each year. Not too heavy of mulching. Native plants are finiky and some of them will not like where they are put and will have to come back and put them elsewhere and mainly weeding.

Mr. Wynns applauds their efforts but wants to make sure the maintenance is kept up. When you put a memorial upon a garden it becomes a different piece. He is trusting Don and staff that as they begin to roll this out it doesn't turn out to be a problem for the community and the department. They have a really strong steward, Linda Scheconnie, who owns Marigold clothing in Broad Ripple and Bill was her partner and she is a very committed resident of Broad Ripple and her neice is now stepping in so it is heartfelt through the families for making this happen and keeping it thriving through the years and Linda is who is spearheading this whole effort and will be the main person overseeing the maintaining of this garden. The Broad Ripple Village Association is backing this as well. Don stated that he hasn't mentioned it but his office is right across the street from this this as well and if it becomes unsitely he will take immediate attention to it. Don mentioned that because of past experience, and he hopes this doesn't happen, they are writing in a clause that if it is failed to maintain it then the Department of Parks retains the option to put it back into the state of turf. Due to the DPR and DPW who do not have the resources to maintain high level gardens like this. Broad Ripple has won several awards for a medium as well for how well it has been kept on College from 65 to 67th. They also installed all the plants in conjunction with the Lilly Day of Service along the Canal. Across the pedestrian bridge those are plants that they put in along with ones that were further down. Citizens Energy Water is now taking care of those plants which is nice, but we are always there when we need to be since it is our community. He has lived in Broad Ripple for 25 years and plans to be there another 20.

Ms. Valentine stated that she just wants to make a commit and she stated that this is exactly the sort of thing she wants to see more of. To have a group come forward and have a

variety of support from different organizations and individuals who are supporting it and they have a plan for funding it and you already have funding for some of it and she would love it if we at every trail that we had we had a group of supporters that are interested in doing a project like this. She just wants to say that she feels this is really great. Mr. DeMeek stated that the Monon is really the backbone in Broad Ripple. It is what a lot of people use on a daily basis to go from one end of the village to the other. They are very excited to team up with the Art to Art Trail. There are existing utility poles that are along the area and will be added for the Art to Art Trail and those will be repurposed so that will be included as well.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Board. There were none.

A motion was duly made by Ms. Valentine, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #8, 2014.

5. Agenda Item Resolution #25A,1994 – The Resource Development Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of Indianapolis, is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, approve Amendment #1 to the Lease Agreement between the Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis and the Department of Parks and Recreation which permits a small addition to the north and northwest corner of their existing building and further delineate the lease agreement boundary. (Finch Park – Neighborhood Park)

Mr. Colvin thanked the Board secretary and stated that this resolution involves a little neighborhood park on the southside of State and Lexington Streets, just under an acre in size. It is not very big but it serves our wide population of young children in our community and we have the benefit of having a Boys and Girls Club adjoining our property which is a nice relationship. They are wanting to expand the building so the imagery you see on the overhead screen depicted in the areas in blue show the expansion which is a very small expansion but it allows them to improve their programming. There will be a small challenge for the department because it adds an additional sidewalk that comes around and as you look at your handout you see the orange line which shows the new delineation of the area that the Boys and Girls Club will be responsible for. Basically by adding their smaller addition it changes the alignment of the existing walkway so it has to wrap around the building and then follow its way south to the parking lot. The orange line is delineating everything to the east of that line and it will be maintained by the Boys and Girls Club and everything to the west of that line going towards State Street would remain in the oversight of the Parks Department. They are recommending approval of this addition and they believe it is a good partnership and relationship that has been long standing for many years.

Chairman Williams added that he and Don have talked quite a bit about this addition and in speaking with the Boys and Girls Club and the things he wants to continue on in negotiation with them is to take on a little bit more ownership and maintenance of the entire property and they have expressed that they would be interested in having that discussion and they understand that they utilize it a lot to begin with and as long as we don't have it as an exclusive to the Boys and Girls Club, so they understand that. The other thing that we wanted to make sure that we did was in the agreement that is currently reads there is very ambiguous language, if you will, with regard to maintenance and who is responsible for what

so we are going to clean up that language as well to make sure that the agreement stipulates specifically those things that they are going to be responsible for, such as the sidewalk. Right now if the sidewalk crumbles it really doesn't say who is responsible for its repair. They understand this and agree to this as well that they will maintain the sidewalk; they will maintain the parking lot because those things are not mentioned in the current agreement, and it just states maintenance. We wanted to make sure that we cleaned this language up and before we agree to do this they have to agree to modify the language.

Mr. Wynns stated that one thought comes to mind and DPW still does contracted mowing of this property and it would be easy to give them \$500.00 for mowing and we wouldn't have to go out there. Chairman Williams stated that what we want to do is not to give them anything and they can mow it for free. They seem agreeable to making these changes and we thought if they are willing to do that then the footprints to the additions to the building doesn't really impact the park per say so we felt like this would be a good solution for them and a win win for us as well. Mr. Wynns stated that the Boys and Girls Club and Indy Park's missions are basically the same. Dr. Greenwood stated that what is being recommended is very good because it will be in writing the terms of who is responsible for what maintenance at the park. She does know that the Boys and Girls Club are very good with her school kids and the Parks Department and she believes this is good for both organizations.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Board. There were none.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item Resolution #25A, 1994.

6. Agenda Item #10, 2014 – Approval by the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, allowing Flat 12 Brewing and Upland Brewing to sell beer during the Indianapolis Gaelic Athletic Games (Indy GAA) to be held at Kuntz Memorial Soccer Field on May 9, June 20, July 18 and August 15, 2014.

Chairman Williams greeted Lee Ann White and her guest. Ms. White extended her greetings as well and stated that they are here today asking approval from the Board for alcohol to be served at the Indy GAA matches to be held at 4 different dates this year and held at Kuntz Stadium. They have 2 different brewers who will be splitting their dates up. Flat 12 will be serving on May 9th and July 18th and Upland Brewing will be serving on June 20th and August 15th. All of the parameters are in place as far as where the beverages will be sold which will be in the breezeway at the stadium in the stadium area upstairs adjacent to the pressbox. The area will be secured with an IMPD officer. Patrons will be given wristbands and there will be a limit of 3 drinks. All their licences have been obtained and submitted for approval and she has with her today Andretta Erickson from Indy GAA should the Board have any questions pertaining to this event or herself.

Ms. Valentine asked how the venders were selected. Ms. White answered that they were selected by the group. Andretta added that they are Indy GAA sponsors. Mr. Wynns asked if they did this last year. Andretta replied that yes they did. Mr. Wynns asked how it was. Andretta replied that it was very successful. They had a few extra people that wouldn't have normally come out but as far as how it was run, it was very orderly and they had a great

event. Mr. Wynns asked if the organization gets an amount of the profits. Andretta stated that they do take a cut of the profits to help offset their expenses such as the cost of the rental of the facility. Mr. Wynns asked Ms. White what the Parks Department receives. Ms. White replied that they receive rental of the facility plus \$1.00 per cup.

Chairman Williams stated that this procedure is new from last year and doesn't yield a lot of money but as we expand this could be revenue that is an untapped potential. We look forward to making sure that these events continue to happen. They are handled orderly.

A motion was duly made by Ms. Valentine, seconded by Mr. Wynns, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #10, 2014.

7. Agenda Item #11, 2014 – Agenda Item #11, 2014 – Approval by the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, allowing TaxMan Brewery to sell beer during the Indy Alley Cats Games to be held at Kuntz Soccer Field on April 19, May 10, May 17, June 7, June 21 and June 27, 2014.

Ms. White stated that she is here once more to request Indy Parks Board approval for the sale of alcohol at this event which is a particular group of professional ultimate disc team, the Indy Alley Cats, from Indianapolis and they are a professional league throughout the country and these players are paid, they are professional and this is their second year at Kuntz stadium. Last year they did not get into the issue of selling alcohol, they wanted to see how the first year went. It went fine. This year they have pursued that. She has Tom with her today who is one of the owners of the club. The brewer for the event will be TaxMan Brewery which is out of Bargersville, Indiana and she has that owner, Matt Rogers here as well to answer any questions you may have. The set up for the selling of the alcohol will be the same as was for the Indy GAA as far as the location. The permits, wrist bands, limitation on the number of sold and all the licenses have been obtained and if the Board has any questions for she or the owner they would be happy to answer them or Mr. Rogers as well would be happy to answer them.

Mr. Wynns asked what the sport is again. It is commonly known as ultimate frisby. Ms. White stated that it is kinda like football. It is set up as football. Ms. White's guest stated that the Board is all invited next Saturday. Mr. Wynns asked if they are using the same model that was just presented in the Indy GAA event. Ms. White replied, yes.

Dr. Greenwood stated that she was going to ask a question as to how they monitor the amount of drinks per person. Ms. White stated that this is part of the wrist bands which will be punched indicating a drink was purchased. Also they have the security up top of stadium and one at the bottom.

A motion was duly made by Ms. Valentine, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #11, 2014.

8. Agenda Item #12, 2014 – The Resource Development Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of Indianapolis, is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation for the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, accept the bid from Brandt Construction Inc. in the amount of \$2,458,900 for additions and renovations to Chuck Klein Sports Complex. This price includes the base bid and all 5 alternates. This contractor was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Mr. Teachout greeted the Chairman and Board members stating that he would like to think of his presentation as “last call”. Mr. Teachout stated that they have been working on this job for a couple of years now on design and he doesn’t know if the Board remembers last year it was rejected because the bids came in too high. We now have the money to do the job, take care of all the alternates that we had in there. They are getting a half million dollars from the Indianapolis Parks Foundation as part of the Lilly grant to take care of this so, they are excited to get that building out of there and put this new building in. You can see it is in bad shape. This work will take care of the building, it takes care of the fields, it puts new fencing in, a number of other shade structures and that type of thing. This will give the concession people an area that is more up-to-date for concessions and better rest rooms and the ability to use this facility year-round with a room that could be rented for uses other than a softball area.

David has Shraug Batel here from Brandt. He is like co-second in command at Brandt Construction and just so the Board knows, Shraug can tell them about Brandt’s previous jobs but Brandt has done some other buildings for the Parks Department, the Earth Discovery Center, Windsor Village. Indy Parks is well aware of Brandt’s ability and they are a good company to work with.

Chairman Williams asked the Board if they had any questions or comments. Mr. Wynns asked if this project will be a combination softball complex community room. Mr. Teachout replied, yes. Indy Parks will have the ability to rent the room upstairs which will have locks on it and the downstairs will be more for the softball area and then if they so desire after a game the team could also rent out the upstairs. Mr. Wynns stated that it sounds like it will be a nice facility.

Chairman Williams added that one of the things he wants the Board to keep in mind is that when they looked at just upgrading the lower level of the building the cost of that was going to be very close to the cost of the additional work on the upstairs and Indy Parks wouldn’t have the flexibility to use this as a rental opportunity so he thinks that rejecting the bids originally and going back out for bid resulted in what we were looking to be able to do. Now those 5 alternate items we wanted originally we will be obtaining with this bid proposal so he thinks this is also a win for the department. Mr. Teachout also mentioned that another thing that one of the alternates will do for us is allow us to work on the soccer field north so this will be a more complete complex. Chairman Williams stated that this is a project that is long overdue and we had an unfortunate incident out there so we need to take care of that as well.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any more questions or comments from the Board. There were none.

A motion was duly made by Dr. Greenwood, seconded by Mr. Wynns, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #12, 2014.

Presentation – Review of Alcohol Policy – Dee Dickerson, Manager Customer Service and Special Use Committee, Indy Parks

Chairman Williams stated that they have been discussing the Alcohol in the parks policy and he felt it appropriate that since he has been with the department we have had several organizations that have requested the special use of serving alcohol at their special events at the approved Indy Parks locations on the list which already approved for this. He began asking about this policy and how the list came about, etc. He looked into the need for a possible change to the policy and if there is, how does this help Indy Parks and he asked Mrs. Dickerson, Indy Parks Customer Service expert, who has delt with this issue numerous times, as well as being on the Indy Parks Special Use Committee, she is aware of the history and he asked her to put together a short presentation for the Board to have discussion on it. What we hope to achieve from this is the Board will hear the information and then have the Board think about it and bring their recommendations, questions, comments etc. We can either keep it as it is. We can modify it and incorporate other facilities or other locations, or we can modify it and say instead of looking at the locations, like a lot of communities they just have a policy that says o.k. is alcohol something that we want to sell or allow to be served at all of our parks depending upon the park once you get that information in, and if it doesn't have a shelter and that kind of thing there we know that those will be out of play. We do have some of the smaller parks that do have shelters, and depending upon the size of the parks, we may want to just look at the activity as opposed to dealing with the park location to make it streamlined for making the case for either doing it or not doing it.

Chairman Williams then introduced Dee Dickerson, Indy Parks Customer Service Manager. Dee stated that Director Williams just made her presentation and she can go home now. As Director Williams said she is here to talk to the Board about alcohol and some people think that alcohol and parks do not go together. It has been a challenge as they oversee some of their special event activities and the question comes up about beer and wine and alcohol within the parks depending upon the scope of the event. The current alcohol policy that we have in place, she can't claim any ownership to it. It was in place when she started with the department 13 years ago and she pretty much has abided by it. She thinks we have come back to the Parks Board in 2010 they came back and asked for an addition of 2 locations, Holliday Park and Chuck Klein Softball Complex and other than that they have been working off of the designated list. She wants to specify that she is only referring to public special events right now. She is not talking about family reunions, company picnics, those in their minds have been designated as private events. They would not change their designated locations for private events because again it is not fair to staff to have to police those types of events. If someone wanted to do a family reunion here at Thatcher Park and bring beer and wine, we wouldn't want to put staff in that position. They would still keep with their list currently as far as those designated locations for private events. As the times have changed and case in point, our State Fair has approved beer and wine we were one of only 2 states that did not have that in place already so we can say that North Carolina is the only state that doesn't allow beer. If she is ever on Jeopardy, she will no the answer to that question. Again, times are changing and we are getting requests, so Director Williams brought up the challenge as to why do we do designated areas. We get requests from very valid Not-For-

Profit churches, other organizations asking for a beer truck for their event. Instead of shutting the door on those events, and saying no, they are not in the designated area, although this is a nice safety blanket for staff, so why don't we wait on the merits of the event as we do any other special event, with just the added component of alcohol. So, right now, the current policy is designated park locations. They want to at least discuss and bring it up, because again, we know how important this is, so we say, o.k. lets say lets look at the merits of the event, do they need all of the permitting. Is the park location a good location to have the beer and wine? She is thinking of Finch Park, the Boys and Girls Club, it is too small, it is an area where they wouldn't even consider the area that it is located in. She works very heavily with the Parks Department staff; she has her Park Ranger support staff in back of her today, to answer any questions from you. She told them they needed to sit up with her but they chose to sit back there, but she knows that they have her back. State Excise, she thinks are getting tired of hearing from her because she is always calling and asking, what about this, and what about that, and we want to do this, and they want to do that. She thinks she has her own personal Excise representative over there. They work very diligently with Code Enforcement because every event that comes before the Special Use Committee also has to be vetted by Code Enforcement. Of course she has her friend at the Board of Health, Miss Kelly that she has been working with her for 13 years. She knows her number by heart and she knows hers. So there is a whole lot of effort that goes into this process. You know how they say it takes a village to raise a child; it takes a whole city to host a special event. None of this process would go away. We would continue doing all that. They just want to discuss the designated park location part of the policy. She is very fortunate that she has a dedicated staff that helps her with special events, including the rangers, DPW, Sports Division of Indy Parks, Lee Ann White.

Dee asked that Suzanne change the slide. Dee stated that up on the overhead screen is Indy Parks guidelines that have to be met to be on the list of approved Indy Park facilities allowed to serve alcohol at their facility. Obviously, the biggest approval is written approval by the Parks Board, insurance, permits from the Board of Health, neighborhood sign-off if applicable, advisory council, if applicable, which is all in place today and has not changed what-so-ever. There is the Board of Health distribution and consumption. What safeguards are in place as far as wristbands, location of the alcohol? They do require a higher insurance premium for events with alcohol, so right away. If an event organizer can't come up with the insurance, they will not be allowed to serve alcohol at their event. They can still have the event, if they come up with the million, but the 3 million raises the bar just a little bit so some parks would automatically be excluded because they do not have running water and this is one of the Board of Health requirements for serving food beverage that they have to have running water.

Dee asked if there are any questions on what their current policy is. There were no questions.

Dee continued stating that as with anything, what the benefits are. For example, Dee has a dear lady from Holy Rosary Church who hosts their Italian Festival every year and their church is on one side of the street Lacy Park is on the other side of the street. There is a street in the middle and they go through Code Enforcement and get the street blocked off and every year they come to her and say they want to be able to put a beer truck at Lacy Park and every year she has to answer no we can't do that. What they do on their property

is perfectly fine. And what they do in the street is perfectly fine because Code Enforcement has given them authority, but the minute you put your foot on Indy Parks property, it is not allowed. Se did make mention to the lady that our department is in the process of discussing our policy and may make some adjustments to the policy in the future. Dee knows that the Director has had conversations with people that do events at Alice Carter Park. We receive these quite periodically where the customers are nice, wonderful event requests but unfortunately we have to tell them no. Dee stated that this would open up the venue for those legitimate permitted wonderful events that there is really no reason for them to allow alcohol in their park but we have a list. As we develop areas like Chuck Klein and on Post Road and sports, it would give us an avenue to go ahead and open it up for those locations.

One of the things that is very helpful for her and she believes the rangers would agree, is when we have beer and wine at an event, we have more excise. Right now excise will not come on Indy Parks property for illegal drinking but because they are going to the excise office and filing for a permit it puts it on the excise calendars and they come and do inspections and make sure that beer is not being served to under age individuals. This gives Indy Parks another resource to go to having their presence there. They have looked at last year as their pilot of about 20 Indy Park events last year where beer was allowed to be served. Did we make a lot of money, probably not, it was a pilot program. A lot of people were not aware we were serving beer and didn't bring their wallets. This year it will probably become an expectation that at our concerts and our movies we have a beer truck there.

We talk about revenue sharing. And like Lee Ann she is getting \$1.00 per beer for her events. She asks what else we can do as far as revenue sharing. Maybe we have a preferred vendor that if somebody wants to have an event at one of Indy Parks we show them our preferred vendor list and they can use one of them because we have already vetted them. We have their insurance, they are reliable, and we know they won't break any laws. So with the help of our Finance Division and now that we have our in house auditor on board in finance who can help us figure out how we collect it, how we audit it, how do we make sure we are getting our fair share of the profits we can kind of put those things in place.

And then we have the perception of why certain parks are on the list and others are not. So if we follow our guidelines and each park that would like to be on the list has followed the guidelines and obtained the necessary paperwork.

As she searched online at other states and how they handle their events, it is all over board with what is and is not allowed and where and where not as far as how and who takes care of the approval etc. Now that she has presented this information to the Board Dee asked for their thoughts or if they wish to go home and think it over.

Dr. Greenwood had a question. Dr. Greenwood asked who were certain parks selected to be on the list. Dee stated that she has no idea since this was done in 1998. Mr. Winns stated that he could answer this question since he was with Indy Parks at that time and he was on the other side of this policy at that time and this policy was driven by the reclassification of the parks system. The Parks System was classified in 3 categories: Neighborhood Parks; Community Parks; and Regional Parks. Neighborhood and community parks were outlawed for alcohol because they were trying to change the image of the

neighborhoods and communities. This was part of the plan when Leon Younger was the Park Director and and this was created this whole master plan and they specifically identified what parks were appropriate for alcohol because what they did not want was a beer truck parked in a community park or a beer truck parked in a neighborhood park and this is why they selected Regional Parks and athletic facilities. Beer trucks were totally out; it had to be beer gardens. They did not want someone driving down Meridian Street and look over at Alice Carter Park and a beer truck was parked in front of the park. It was the imaging thing and it goes back to the park classification system. Now if you are going to change the classification system, and you are going to change where the neighborhood parks are and what a community park is, and what a regional park is, and they figured with the regional park they could identify designated areas and if he was walking through with his daughter, he wouldn't see someone drinking a beer. It was separating the children and the family away from the beer dispensing. The policy at the time was very restricted because they had a very conservative Park Board and they were concerned that if you were going to have it, it needed to be in some cases, out of mind, and out of sight. That policy is still relevant today. Chairman Williams stated that he was happy that Mr. Wynns. Articulated the reasoning behind why one park was chosen to be on the list and others were not back when this policy and list were established with the department.

Chairman Williams stated that beer trucks are one thing and in certain circumstances we would not want to have a parking lot lined up for the various beer trucks. On the other hand, for example with our movies in the parks we did have a beer truck but it was somewhat secluded and wasn't visible from the street and it was only 1 truck. The other thing is, most of our events are beer tents and that tent kind of shields off so we don't have a Coor's Lite team sitting out in the parking lot for beer. From a pragmatic stand point this is what he thought. He agrees with Mr. Wynns 100 % to keep kids from the exposure of the alcohol, but this is the realty that we live and work on a day to day basis. In a lot of our neighborhood parks, when people have their family reunions, that is what they are doing. They are drinking beer and we can't police it. He is not saying that we should police it. We also have other public events where people drink beer they bring beer into Indy Parks. It is a very difficult task to police these events. Who do we arrest first when you have 100 people out there drinking? We are saying that the first step would be, not necessarily, and it might not be the right thing to do, that is why he wanted to bring this to the Board because it is not up to him as the Director to make that decision. He thinks we owe our community to discuss it and to try to figure out a way to move forward and include some of these other parks because we do have larger parks, like Northwestway out on the west side and he doesn't know if that falls into that category, Mr. Wynns stated that it is a regional park and yet we don't allow alcohol sales there. Mr. Wynns stated that it would be appropriate because you have that whole picnic area there where they could host it and it is totally separate from the swimming pool, the golf course but it currently doesn't appear on the list. Chairman Williams stated that this is what he thought. He kept going back to staff asking questions about it because he wants us to get to the right answer. It is not just the Director who should come up with that right answer. This is a good discussion for the Parks Board to have. What he thought in the future if he is here and we decide that we are goinig to do this, this, and this, and the Board approves, and we are goinig to add this park, this park, and this park and three years down the road we may have aquired more park property and then we will have to come back to the Board to see if we can add these new parks that were just created on the new property. When does it end? We will continue to look at this policy over time and he thinks at this

time if we look at the merits of the activity and determine whether or not that merit of activity is appropriate then we can do away with the current policy and the new policy could stand in perpetuity unless there is something that comes up like a law is changed and forces us to change that policy this new policy could stand regardless of whether or not we have new parks coming into to our department portfolio because if we don't we will continue to struggle with that question as we bring new parks into our park land. This is why he wanted the Board to have a good health discussion about whether or not, and this is why we are not going to ask the Board to approve and vote on anything today. He wants the Board members to really go back and take a look at this and really think about it because it may not be the right thing to do and continue on this path. It may be the right thing to say we will leave it as it is.

Dee then stated that she would then have to come to the Board and ask their approval for Lacy Park to have approval to serve alcohol because the Italian Fest really wants to have it. Chairman Williams replied, exactly and we will have this type of request. He wants us to at least be able to say that we have a policy in place that will make sure that we look into that all of the things that are important to having this type of activity in whatever park that is and then we have these checks and balances where it goes through Excise, it goes through the police and Code Enforcement, and everything has to be approved by the Special Use Committee before we agree to allow this and then the Parks Board finally renders their decision on whether or not it is o.k.

Mr. Wynns stated that what makes it easier, is, and that is for you and your staff to figure out, is whether or not we are going to have a park classification system and what kind of activity goes into that specific classification. If you don't have a park classification system and identify the activities that goes into that parks classification you are always going to be asked why a certain park isn't allowed to have it. Chairman Williams stated that he will take a look at that. Chairman Williams stated that we still have Regional, Neighborhoods, and Community Parks. Mr. Wynns stated that maybe that is for staff to rethink those activities. Those are the benchmarks for the classification system. Maybe it is time to look at the community parks and see if it is something that could be considered.

Chairman Williams stated that he will take a look at other community's classifications systems. He stated that the couple of years that he has been with Indy Parks it is deserving and he has had 5 – 7 requests for use of alcohol in parks that are not on the current lists. He wanted to bring it to the Board's attention. The community has had an opportunity to hear this discussion and we are going over our options and he will be comfortable with that. We went through a process to get to where we are and this is what he wants the Board to do so that when we come back together whether it is the next Board meeting or another after that we can actually go down the path saying what did you think? He doesn't want a decision today because he doesn't think it fair until the Board has had time to think this through.

He will have Suzanne send out the PowerPoints so you will have something to refer to that we have discussed.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions from the Board. Dee mentioned that again as Mr. Wynns mentioned regional parks. She has regional parks that are not on the

current list. It didn't use to be we reserved the shelters at the neighborhood parks, and now we do. Because maybe the needs of the community has changed and that is something else to look at. Mr. Wynns stated that activities are not carved in stone and they can be modified. You have folks that are for this in the parks and those that are against it.

This concludes the presentation and we will get that information out to the Board members.

Anne added that as the new person she would say she is completely open for this discussion and thinks it is a good idea that we become more flexible so we are not linked to a restricted list of parks that it can be served at and it can be a decision based on what the parameters set by event and she hopes and she would like to see a little more information and that list to look over.

Chairman Williams stated that this a good health debate and thanked the Board for being here and thanked them for their service again and he believes that as we move forward we will be making the right decision for the citizens of Indianapolis and respective of what other people may want and we will do right for Indianapolis and he has every confidence in that.

Adjournment

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns for adjournment, seconded by by Ms. Valentine and unanimously passed to adjourn.

The next Board of Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2014 at 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Thatcher Park located at 4649 W. Vermont Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.

SUBMITTED:

APPROVED:

Louvenia Holstein, Board Secretary

John W. Williams, Chairman
Board of Parks and Recreation

Date